



## Georgia Safe Routes to School Resource Center Monthly Progress Report 2015 Billing Period 1

The Resource Center serves the Georgia by delineating outreach efforts into five geographic territories, serving 429 school Partners across the state at the end of this period (through February 2015.) Additionally, the Resource Center has 287 Friends, or community stakeholder partners that support the state's mission, but that are not schools themselves. A map of the five outreach territories and the distribution of SRTS Partner Schools (denoted by dots), is shown on the right. The map also displays locations for National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Child Pedestrian Curriculum trainings, the site of the 2014 Georgia Forum, and sites of SRTS Travel Plans administered by the Resource Center since the project's start in 2009.

In January, the Resource Center School Outreach Coordinators (SOCs) attended Teens in the Driver's Seat trainings. The program is offered by the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) with outreach being conducted by the Regional Commissions. The SOC's will support the Regional Commissions' efforts to approach schools and will communicate the benefits of the driver peer-to-peer education program to middle school partners and school districts.

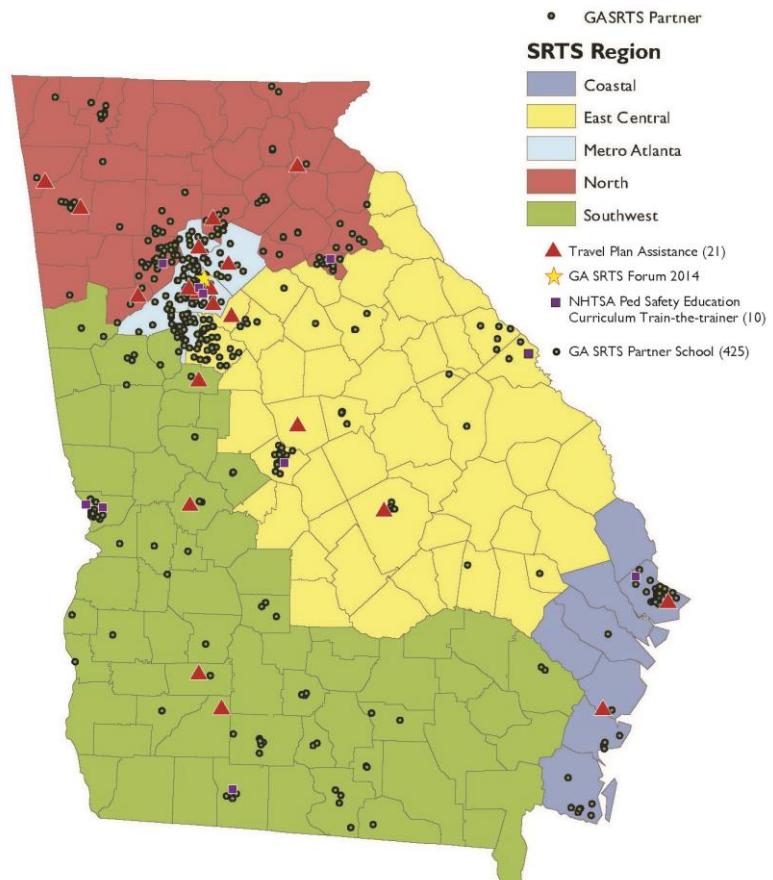
Since the start of 2015, the outreach staff supported 15 events and 154 meetings, and gave eight presentations to schools and community organizations as well as to students.

All Partners are listed on the complete Partner list at the back of this report. [Click here](#) for more information about the Resource Center partnership program.

### Outreach

#### Metro Atlanta Territory – Nichole Hollis, School Outreach Coordinator (SOC)

Nichole serves 133 partners in the Metro Atlanta territory. Since the beginning of 2015, Nichole has signed on **T.H. Slater Elementary School** in Fulton County, **Craig Elementary School** in Gwinnett County, and **The International Community School** in DeKalb County as new partners with the Resource Center. She also focused her efforts on providing technical assistance to schools in preparation for Georgia Walk to School Day, coordinating the Comprehensive Travel Plan for **Charles R. Drew Charter School**, and collaborating future initiatives with **Safe Kids Coalitions in Fulton, Gwinnett, and Clayton Counties**.



Nichole met with the **Charles R. Drew Charter School** Travel plan taskforce members and discussed in detail the importance and benefits of a travel plan. Additionally, Meeting 1 of the Travel Plan process was held. There were several community organizations involved in the meeting including the **Atlanta Bicycle Coalition, the Eastlake foundation, City of Atlanta public works department, Atlanta Safe Routes to School Regional Network, and Georgia Department of Transportation**. The principal is very pleased the school has been awarded with travel plan assistance and highlighted concerns around the school that are in need of more attention. Charles R. Drew Charter School hosts major walking and biking events throughout the school year and often has more than 300 students participating.

**The Museum School** in Dekalb County held its first winter walking event of the semester in January. It was a success with 50 students walking and biking to school on a freezing day. The crossing guards received hot chocolate sponsored by the school's parent and teacher organization.

Nichole also had the opportunity of attending **Safe Kids Coalition** meetings in Clayton and Gwinnett County and networking with new community members in these areas.

**Westchester Elementary School** in City Schools of Decatur held a Dress for Winter Walk and Roll Day. The Westchester students celebrated how well prepared for winter they could be. Children wearing hats, scarves, and gloves while walking and rolling to school were awarded two marbles that were deposited into a large urn that keeps a count of all walkers and rollers at the school. Once full, the entire Westchester student body would be able to earn five extra minutes of recess! Four walking school buses were organized for the event.

Nichole is working closely with the Georgia DOT District 7 Communications Officer, Annalysce Baker-Wilson on a ribbon-cutting ceremony at **Palmetto Elementary** in March to celebrate the completed infrastructure projects and to promote Walk to School Day events.

### **East Central Territory - Taki Smith, School Outreach Coordinator**

Taki currently supports 81 Partners in the East Central Territory.

Since the start of 2015, Taki attended meetings, promoted Georgia Walk to School Day, collaborated with Friend organization **Safe Kids-Greater Augusta**, and met with several GDOT District Communications Officers (DCOs) to plan and coordinate ribbon cutting ceremonies throughout the East Central Territory. Taki also met with a newly formed Health Advisory board for the **CSRA Economic Opportunity Authority, Inc., Head Start Program** in Augusta.

**Wesley Lakes Elementary School**, located in Henry County, recently recommitted to the SRTS program, after being inactive for over a year. Wesley Lakes Elementary is a GDOT infrastructure awardee school and recently received new sidewalks and crosswalks. In efforts to encourage the parents and students to utilize the new sidewalks, GDOT, SRTS, and the school administration are in the process of planning a ribbon cutting celebration to be held in March for Georgia Walk to School Day.

**Safe Kids-Greater Augusta**, a Friend organization, collaborated with **C.T Walker Magnet School** in Richmond County and hosted "Take Action Against Distraction" Video Contest Awards. The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders created videos in regards to distracted pedestrians. Taki served on the panel of judges that selected winners. The winner of the video contest was sent to the National Safe Kids Headquarters to compete against hundreds of other schools. See the photo to the right which includes the pedestrian safety video award winners, Safe Kids-Greater Augusta Coordinator, Rene Hopkins, and the School Principal, Aletha Snowberger.



**Peach State Health Plan**, a Friend organization, met with Taki and Nichole in Conyers and committed to sponsoring Title I schools in Henry and DeKalb County for this year's Georgia Walk to School Day in March. Taki has partnered with the organization in the past, and representatives are excited about future collaborations with SRTS.

### **Southwest Territory – Chelsea Carter, School Outreach Coordinator**

While maintaining 69 Partners, Chelsea is working to double the number of **Georgia Walk to School Day** events and activities. The following six schools have asked Chelsea to teach their students **NHSTA Child Pedestrian Education Curriculum** lessons in March:

- Pinevale Elementary School, Lowndes County
- Jesup Elementary School, Wayne County
- Screven Elementary School, Wayne County
- Lanier Elementary School, Lanier County
- Webster County School, Webster County
- Schley Elementary School, Schley County

Other schools will be using classroom education and the flyers customized specifically for their county.

Along with Georgia Walk to School Events, Chelsea continues to work closely with the **Southwest Georgia Regional Commission** on several activities. The **Community Bike Rodeo** planning is still underway. The event will coincide with the town of Camilla's Gnat Days activities and will be held alongside promotions for GDOT's **Teens in the Driver's Seat** program.

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission invited Chelsea to speak to both students and guidance counselors at their annual **Youth Summit** in Camilla. Chelsea spoke to students about safety, including Safe Routes to School and Teens in the Driver's Seat guidelines as well as the importance of taking responsibility for their younger siblings. Both **Barbara Reddick** from the Regional Commission office and Chelsea spoke to the guidance counselors about the safety programs and the need to expand into new schools. Contacts have been made that will pave the way to future implementation in counties that currently do not have SRTS or TDS in the deep Southwest.

**North Mitchell County Elementary School** was awarded the Safety Focused Planning Assistance by the Resource Center. The school will host the Walk Audit on March 11<sup>th</sup>. The school has conducted their Travel Tally Data as well as Parent Surveys in order to aid the assessment. The school plans to celebrate the Safety Focus Assessment at their Georgia Walk to School Event with pedometer-based walking activities and education.

Chelsea is working closely with the **Safe Routes to School Task Force** in Carrollton. The group discussed their SRTS action plan and aims to implement the program later this spring utilizing Resource Center strategies and resources.

### **North Georgia Territory – Patti Sistrunk, Interim School Outreach Coordinator**

The territory has 105 Partner Schools. During the billing period, efforts were focused on the **Turner Middle School** Travel Plan in Douglas County. Meeting 1 for the Travel Planning process was held during February and Meetings 2 and 3 are scheduled for mid-March. The school collected student travel tallies and parent surveys and provided data to the Resource Center.

In January, School Outreach Coordinator Alicia Hatcher left the Resource Center. The position was posted and efforts are underway to find a new SOC for North Georgia.

## Coastal Georgia Territory – Patti Sistrunk, School Outreach Coordinator and Project Manager

Patti maintains 41 School Partners in Coastal Georgia.

The **Healthy Savannah** initiative to incorporate Safe Routes to School at ten Savannah area schools continued through this period. Meetings were held at Partners **Butler Elementary** and **Hubert Middle**. Both schools are active with events and educational strategies. Patti attended the post-PTA meetings at both schools and provided support during mapping and discussion exercises. In January, the **City of Savannah** passed a Complete Streets Ordinance. The Healthy Savannah efforts were successful, and will continue to promote SRTS as a health option in Savannah and throughout Chatham County.

Patti attended and tabled at the **Chatham Youth Obesity Summit** at Armstrong State University during this period. The event drew health advocates, academics, public health professionals, educators, and businesses from throughout the area to discuss health impacts on area children. Presentations touted the benefits of active transportation options and promoted working with schools. Patti showcased the health benefits of walking and bicycling with materials from the Resource Center. She shared a table with Friend organization **Alliance for Healthier Generation**.

### Marketing and Resource Development

During this period, project management and marketing staff met with the GDOT Communications team including the **District Communications Officers** (DCOs) about collaboration and cross-promotion. As a result of that meeting, the SOC's will coordinate with the DCOs to promote events and to plan ribbon cutting ceremonies for completed infrastructure. With Georgia Walk to School Day coming up, each SOC will reach out to the DCOs in their region. The Resource Center will keep the GDOT Communications team informed about statewide efforts and promotions and will support each district with school-based outreach.

The website was updated during this period. Georgia Walk to School Day information was further updated and registration was made available. Schools began registering events in January. Additionally, the Forum web page was published to promote the 2015 Statewide SRTS Forum.

The Resource Center team developed Spanish language materials and delivered those to the client in January. Those will be added to the website in spring. The pedestrian safety bookmark, bicycle safety bookmark (shown), and the Parent Walk Safely Way To tip sheet were translated.

Incentives were purchased and delivered for Georgia Walk to School Day. Glow-in-the-dark bracelets were distributed to schools registered and will continue to be distributed leading up to events. Additionally, bookmarks were printed for upcoming bicycle and pedestrian activities.



### Travel Plan Assistance

The Resource Center team began work on the Travel Plans and Safety-Focused Reports. The Outreach Coordinators in each region held initial meetings with the Champions and some members of the local teams for each of the selected schools in January. In February, Meeting 1 of the planning process was held at each of the Travel Plan schools. In March, Meetings 2 and 3 will be held. For more information on the planning process, visit <http://www.saferoutesga.org/content/safe-routes-school-travel-plans-and-reports>.

#### Travel Plan Assistance

Drew Charter School, Fulton County  
Turner Middle School, Douglas County

#### Safety-Focused Report

Henderson Mill Elementary School, Dekalb County  
North Mitchell County Elementary, Mitchell County

### **Thirty Day Look Ahead**

The Outreach team will continue to work with schools, districts, and communities to plan events and resources that support walking and biking programs.

Georgia Walk to School Day is planned for March 4, 2015, and registration for the event will continue through March. The team will promote registration and event participation and distribute incentives.

Planning assistance will continue with Meetings 2 and 3 at the Travel Plan schools. Walk audits and community meetings will also be held at Safety-focused Report schools in March.

National Bike to School Day registration is expected to go live at [www.walkbiketoschool.org](http://www.walkbiketoschool.org). National Bike to School Day is May 6, 2015, and is sponsored by the National Center for SRTS.

The team will meet for the Quarter One Team meeting on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> in Macon in order to plan for the SRTS Forum and visit the venue location, Central High School. The team will be meeting at the GDOT training facility and offices on Riverside Drive in Macon.